

PATENT

REMARKS

Examiner Khoa Tran is thanked for courtesies extended during a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative on July 23, 2003. During the interview, Applicant's representative explained distinctions between the cited prior art and the presently claimed invention. While Examiner Khoa Tran will again review the reference of record, it was tentatively agreed that the presently claimed invention is patentably distinct over the references of record. A summary of the discussion is provided.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under Section 103(a) over Sibley, U.S. Patent Number 5,538,230 ("Sibley"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Newly added claim 14 recites a wafer boat comprising a lower portion upon which a portion of the wafer is in contact. The lower portion has a generally concave contour as viewed along the central axis of the wafer. Newly added claims 22 and 23 recite a wafer boat comprising a lower grooved support configured to contact a portion of a wafer. The lower grooved support has a cross-section configured such that at temperatures above 1000 °C the portion of the wafer is supported by substantially all of the arcuate cross-section.

In contrast, the wafer boat of Sibley has a lower portion with a convex contour. Sibley does not teach or remotely suggest a concave contour. Furthermore, Sibley does not teach or remotely suggest a portion of the wafer being supported by substantially all of the arcuate cross-section.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Examiner Tran is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.


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Should Examiner Tran deem that any further action by the Applicant would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, Examiner Tran is requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

10/28/03


Jeffrey S. Abel, Reg. No. 36,079
Attorney for Applicant(s)
TOLER, LARSON & ABEL, L.L.P.
P.O. Box 29567
Austin, Texas 78755-9567
(512) 327-5515 (phone)
(512) 327-5452 (fax)

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